

Sullivan County NH

Type of meeting: Board of Commissioners, Regular Public Meeting
Minutes

Date/Time: Tuesday – February 6, 2007; 3 PM

Place: Newport – Remington Woodhull County Complex, 14
Main Street, 1st Floor, Commissioner Conference
Room

Attendees: Commissioners Ethel Jarvis – *Chair*, Ben C. Nelson – *Vice Chair* and Jeff Barrette – *Clerk*; Ed Gil de Rubio – *County Manager*; Bard Flanders – *Unity Conservation Commission Chair*; Captain Denis O’Sullivan – *Sheriff’s Office*; Sharon Johnson-Callum (*minute taker*).

Other attendees: State-County Delegate Larry Converse and Aaron Aldridge – Eagle Times Reporter/Newport Resident.

3:03 The meeting was opened by Chair, Commissioner Jarvis. Representative Larry Converse led all in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.A. DEC 19, 2006 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Jarvis noted the 12/19/06 Executive Session minute’s approval was delayed as Commissioner Nelson had questioned if something was included. They noted no changes were required.

3:05 A motion was made, by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the 12/19/06 Executive Session minutes. Commissioner Barrette seconded the motion. (There was no decision on whether to unseal or keep the minutes sealed) A voice vote was taken. The motion carried with all in favor.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.B. JAN 3, 2007 PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

3:07 A motion was made, by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the 1/3/07 minutes as printed. Commissioner Barrette seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried with all in favor.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.C. JAN 16, 2007 PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Jarvis noted the following should be changed:

1. Page 2, under Clawback, the word “hose” should be “those”.
2. Under the Health Care Report: Dr. Catino section, the sentence regarding his affiliation with New London continues should be removed, as Mrs. Jarvis indicated he does not continue there. Commissioner Barrette disagreed. Commissioner Nelson was unsure. Johnson-Callum noted she’d double-check the information.
3. “Keene” was misspelled.

4. Page 5, Criminal Justice System section, the words "in to" should be merged.
- 3:13 A motion was made, by Commissioner Barrette, to approve of the January 16th meeting minutes with corrections, but to check on the section with Dr. Catino, and read it into the minutes at the next meeting. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried with all in favor.**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5. COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

It was noted they moved the County Manager's section ahead in the meeting as Mr. Gil de Rubio had another appointment to attend.

FY 08 BUDGET REVIEWS – NOT ON AGENDA

Mr. Gil de Rubio noted he began budget review with the County department heads this week and they are going smoothly.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5.A. GREATER SULLIVAN COUNTY ALL HAZARDS REGION COMMITTEE (GSCAHR): NH STATE PHASE II FUNDING UPDATE

Mr. Gil de Rubio confirmed he completed the grant application this morning for the GSCAHR State's Phase II funding, and anticipates submitting the electronic version tomorrow. In Phase I they received approximately \$27,000. In Phase II they are applying for approximately \$42,000. Phase I is to be concluded with a tabletop exercise by 6/30/07. Phase II goes from 7/1/07 through 12/31/07 and includes two more tabletop exercises. He noted all municipalities are now on board with signed MOU's. Of the Phase II funding \$10,000 goes to regional committee expenses, \$10,000 to the County for facilitating and administrating the grant and program and the additional \$22,000 will be applied to the consultant helping with the pandemic planning process.

STRATEGIC PREVENTION FRAMEWORK (SPF)

In conjunction with the Sullivan County Community Coalition, the County will be applying as fiscal agent for a ¼ million-dollar grant. The grant deadline is 2/22/07.

MRF (MATERIAL RECLAMATION FACILITY)

A regional meeting is planned for 2/27/07 @ 7 p.m. in the Newport County complex, with ANTIOCH regarding a regional dual Material Reclamation Facility (MRF). Invitees will include all towns/city Select Board members, the Delegation, Commissioners. Mr. Gil de Rubio is recommending they go for a more comprehensive business plan. The plan will be funded through a collaborative from ANTIOCH, the larger municipalities and the County. Claremont and Newport will be kicking in \$5,000 each, ANTIOCH \$10,000, and \$3,000 from the County. Mr. Gil de Rubio spoke regarding the \$45,000 surplus in the County's Capital budget Fund 42 that was previously spoken about by Mr. Chanis during a previous Board meeting. He would like to use \$3,000 of the \$45,000.

- 3:25 A motion was made, by Commissioner Nelson, to authorize use of the \$3,000 contingent of the funding from the other municipalities, and move forward.**

Commissioner Barrette seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried, with all in favor.

Commissioner Barrette commended Mr. Gil de Rubio on his work creating the funding collaborative with the other communities.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5.B. FY07 AUDIT RFP

Mr. Gil de Rubio reminded the Board that the three-year audit term expired last year, and requested they extend the work one more year with Melanson & Heath, then place an RFP for next year, due to a very busy season. It was noted Melanson & Heath's cost was based on an annual basis. At this point, Commissioner Jarvis handed Commissioner Barrette a document that verified cost. Commissioner Barrette noted, assuming the auditors hold the price constant he has no problem extending it a year. Commissioner Nelson concurred, and requested he check the cost and if Melanson and Heath want to perform the audit. Commissioner Barrette recommended the RFP be placed within the next six months for next year, assuming Melanson and Heath agrees to the extension conditions. Mr. Gil de Rubio noted the former auditors came in around \$20,000 more than Melanson and Heath when the RFP was last posted. Ms. Johnson-Callum confirmed the previous auditors were Berry, Dunn, McNeil and Parker. Mr. Gil de Rubio will update the Board at the February 20th meeting. Commissioner Jarvis noted Mr. Biron had spoken previously about using auditors for a 5-year period.

Mr. Gil de Rubio left the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2. SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2.A. RADIO TOWER UPDATE

Capt. O'Sullivan noted Charlestown PD received a grant to install a radio repeater. He noted when they applied and received the grant; they had a location for the repeater at no cost. However, the free tower has now become an expense of \$8,000, so they contacted the Sheriff's Office requesting to use the Sheriff's tower in Unity. The Sheriff approves of this as it eliminates a dead signal area in Charlestown.

3:30 A motion was made, by Commissioner Barrette, to accept the Sheriff's proposal to allow Charlestown to place their repeater on the Sheriff's tower. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried with all in favor.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2.B. OHRV WHEELED VEHICLE CONTRACT SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS

Capt. O'Sullivan noted the Sheriff's Office would continue to work in future years with Fish & Game (F&G) for support of the OHRV (Off Highway Recreational Vehicle) program they implemented last year. He indicated F&G notified them of a surplus in FY07 funds, which they have applied for, that can be used to add 75 extra hours on to the 100 hours they currently are funded for in FY07. These are man-hours allowing them to have a presence on the trails in the community. They do 4 hour blocks and to date have

used 52-54 hours of the 100. It was noted authorization was needed by the Board for the Sheriff's Office to accept the applied for surplus funds.

3:33 A motion was made, by Commissioner Barrette, to accept and sign the letter of authorization. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried with all in favor.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. JUDKIN'S PROPERTY CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Mr. Flanders spoke briefly of a \$35,000 trails grant available through NH Bureau of Trails he was recently notified of. The deadline was last Friday. He submitted an application for the maximum funding level for the Unity Conservation Commission (UCC) and is now gathering the paper work needed. One of the requirements is to attain authorization for the UCC to apply for this grant that he indicated will help UCC subsidize the funds they are in the progress of raising for the Judkin's property conservation easement. He spoke briefly of the current fund raising endeavors and donations received. He noted this application would not affect any other grants the County may apply for. UCC has been working with Unity and Claremont snowmobile clubs, as they depend on value of trail that goes through the property.

3:41 A motion was made, by Commissioner Barrette, to sign the letter of authorization. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried with all in favor.

Mr. Flanders asked if the County had any agreements with the OHRV clubs regarding their use of the trails across the property. No one recalls. Ms. Johnson-Callum spoke regarding a past meeting where Terry Callum appeared before the Board requesting permission for the Unity club to do trail improvements. She also noted, while searching the Bureau of Trails website she noticed liability and RSA's posted regarding OHRV use. The group noted this probably pertained to personal property and not public. Mr. Flanders spoke of liability issues and suggested the County check on this. He noted normally the agreements are made designating a trail corridor width of 12 X 16 that crosses the property, but not putting a specific spot in it. He spoke briefly of consequences of future property purchases with this type of agreement. Mr. Flanders noted he'd bring a trails map to the next Board meeting to illustrate where the trail crossed the Judkin's Property. Commissioner Nelson wants to check with the County Attorney about the liability issues of OHRV use on public lands. Johnson-Callum will check on the RSA's posted at the site.

Mr. Flanders left the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4. COUNTY GRANT POLICY, PROCESS AND APPLICATION REVIEW (FUND 10)

Commissioner Jarvis noted this was placed on the agenda to review and update the policy and procedures. The group discussed the history: there used to be no policy, funds were

used to support organizations that applied year after year, there were no new groups applying, and, Commissioners would designate specific amounts for an organization and it would be changed by the Delegates. Accordingly, the previous Board decided to create a formal policy, which was approved in May of 2004 and included: A) Statement of Purpose, B) Policy and C) Procedures: Provision of Notice, Grant Application and Prerequisites. Commissioner Jarvis noted this policy was never followed.

Commissioner Nelson spoke briefly of former Commissioner Adler's attempt to use funds as seed money for new programs to get started in the area. Johnson-Callum added that the number of applicants varies from year to year, and noted the ad placed in the Eagle Times, and notices at NCTV and CCTV, as well as disbursed to the towns/city, were typically placed 30 days in advance of the application deadline - March 16th this year. She noted the Board has done a very good job at weeding out the organizations that appear to just serve one area in the community and encouraging funding towards those organizations that serve most all towns/city. She also noted, of late, they had not received applications for new programs, which is why they keep seeing the same organizations apply. Commissioner Jarvis requested they review the documents and discuss any changes they want to make during their next meeting. Some areas of suggested change discussed were: adjusting the percentage from 1.4% and updating the Prerequisites section for No. 1 and No. 2.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Nelson noted he attended the HB111 hearing in Concord to testify against the bill regarding the County Delegates taking part in the hiring. Commissioner Jarvis noted she did not go to speak on HB111 as she had not been invited. Ms. Johnson-Callum and Commissioner Nelson noted the Demers Group, in advance, circulates notices regarding legislative hearings. Commissioner Jarvis noted the Board should be attending these hearings when needed and wants the Board in the future to ask Mr. Gil de Rubio to attend, not vice versa.

Commissioner Jarvis noted she met with Mr. Gil de Rubio to talk about the whole agenda. She indicated they discussed everything so that the meetings would run smoothly. She then asked if Commissioner Barrette or Nelson were okay with this protocol? Commissioner Barrette agreed this seemed prudent. Commissioner Jarvis pointed out there had been an Executive Session on the first agenda, which she requested be removed as it was inappropriate. No other details were provided on this matter.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Aaron Aldrich noted he was there as a Newport resident and pointed out the Town of Sunapee voters chose recently to place a warrant article on their ballot to remove Sunapee from the Newport SAU in order to create their own school district, that the NH School Board is opposed to this change; and reminded them that the Town Manager and Selectman have voiced their opinions on succession from the County and moving dispatching services, broadband, etc. His question, would the Commissioners support, appose or have no opinion to this. Commissioner Jarvis noted she was not aware they

were continuing with secession. Mr. Aldridge indicated he feels it's not good for county, nor for the kids, if Sunapee does this. Commissioner Nelson indicated, County wise as far as succession, it would take money out of the budget to be made up by other towns. Mr. Aldridge indicated \$527,000 is spent on SAU and they feel they can save on this with their own School District. Commissioner Barrette indicated when he and Commissioner Jarvis met with Sunapee they said that exiting the County was off the table.

Commissioner Nelson noted anyone is welcome to come up with a new tax model. Mr. Aldridge asked if the Board knew of any way to fix the disparity between the tax? Mr. Nelson spoke briefly about towns that work hard through zoning regulations to not allow low income housing in, which pushes those types of developments towards neighboring municipalities. Mr. Barrette noted this is a social/economic situation they alone cannot change, but that they can continue to keep lines of communications open with the towns. He noted he was not sure how to repair the "sense of community" that is not there. Commissioner Nelson pointed out that not everyone in Sunapee feels the same as the Selectmen or Town Manager, and to get their views.

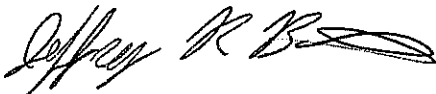
Representative Converse questioned the status of the Judkin's property easement. It was noted it was still on the table until monies were received from UCC and that they extended the deadline for monies to 12/31/07. Rep. Converse asked if the monies were not received by that date what would happen. In reply, it was indicated an extension might be granted.

Representative Converse noted, in reference to the hearing on HB111, he was disappointed when Commissioner Nelson brought up the fact that Rep. Converse's wife worked at the County. Rep. Converse indicated his bill was canceled because the word got out, after that comment, that the bill was submitted due to a "witch-hunt". He wanted it known he did not put the bill in for a witch-hunt. Commissioner Nelson indicated his remark, at that time, was made in response to a comment that the bill had become a personal issue and he wanted it known that Rep. Converse did have a personal attachment to the County.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7. ADJOURN MEETING

4:27 A motion was made, by Commissioner Barrette, to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried, unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



*Jeff Barrette, Clerk
Board of Commissioners*

JB/s.j-c.